THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Import of pig iron through Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, the Canalising Agency, during April, 1986 to January, 1987 was 14,134 tonnes valued at Rs. 2.59 crores. In addition, certain quantities of low phos pig iron are allowed to be imported on Open General Licence (OGL). Data on total import of pig iron so far during 1986-87 are not available.

(b) Import of pig iron during the year through MMTC has been made from Brazil.

(c) The import of pig iron is necessary because domestic availability is not adequate to meet the demand in full.

Setting up of seed villages for production of seeds

1254. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up "seed villages" for the production of seeds of pulses and oilseeds, to enable the farmers to increase the production of these two items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the steps Government are taking to boost the production of oilseeds and pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal in case of pulses. However, for oilseeds, financial assistance of Rs. 150/- per quintal on the quantity of certified seed produced under seed village scheme for groundnut and soyabean is provided in the Centrally Sponsored National Oilseeds Development Project.

(c) To increase the production of pulses, the following strategy is proposed during the Seventh Plan:

1. Introduction of pulse crops in irrigated farming system such as double and multiple cropping;

2. Bringing additional Pulse area under:

(i) short duration varieties of urd, moong, cowpea etc. in rice follows by utilising the residual moisture in rabi season;

(ii) irrigated Pulses during summer season after oilseeds, sugarcane, potato and wheat, and

(iii) lentil cultivation in rabi season.

3. Inter-cropping of arhar in soyabean, bajra, ragi, cotton, sugarcane and groundnut both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions;

4. Multiplication and use of improved pulse seeds, adoption of plant protection measures, use of phosphatic fertilizers and rhizobium culture; and

5. Advocating improved post-harvest technology, addressing problems connected with pricing and marketing of pulses.

Irrigation projects

1255. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 539 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering a proposal to exclude from their purview, such irrigation projects which were started before the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 came into effect; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.